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### The Maine Report.

These are the essential facts found out and reported by the Maine Board of Inquiry:

1. The ship went to Havana as a friendly visitor and with the approval of the Madrid Government.  
2. The place of her mooring was selected by the Spanish authorities in Havana and she was conducted to it by a Spanish Government pilot.

3. The discipline on board was as rigid as any known even in actual war. The ship was in perfect order. All her explosive and combustible stores were perfectly protected in safe magazines which were regularly inspected and kept constantly locked. Her coal bunkers were free from heat. Only two of her boilers were in use and they at a very low pressure. Moreover, all the boilers have been found and none of them have suffered from the explosion. The disaster did not originate from any internal cause.

4. There were two explosions, the first lifting up the whole forward part of the ship; the second, following immediately afterward, was probably the explosion of some minor magazines as a result of the first shock.

5. The bottom plates of the ship are found to have been bent upward by an explosion beneath them to a distance of thirty-four feet. The vertical keel is broken in two at the point of explosion, and the flat keel is bent upward about thirty feet above its normal position.

From all this mass of physical evidence the board is forced to conclude:

(1.) "That the loss of the Maine was not in any respect due to negligence on the part of any of the officers or members of the crew," and

(2.) "That the Maine was destroyed by the explosion of a submarine mine, which caused the partial explosion of two or more of her forward magazines."

The court reports that it "has been unable to obtain evidence fixing the responsibility for the destruction of the Maine upon any person or persons."

That is to say, the court has not been able to find out precisely who set off the mine. Is the broader sense the court's findings do fix the responsibility beyond the shadow of doubt or question. That responsibility is brought home to the Spanish authorities at Havana, and our Government would be justified of all mankind in co-operatively holding Spain to account. So much was made plain by the clear-cut analysis of the mine by a European Ambassador.

Submarine mines are not matter of accident or chance. They are never private enterprises, as a torpedo might be. They are planted by official action. Their locality is exactly known to the authorities, and the wire connections that set them off are always under the jealous guardianship and control of those authorities.

If the Maine was blown up by such a mine—as the court finds it was—the inescapable conclusion is that she was blown up by the deliberate and criminal act of some person or persons for whose deed the Spanish authorities at Havana are responsible.

They planted the mine and had exact knowledge of its whereabouts. They had the Maine anchored over it. They controlled its connections. They are accountable for its explosion, whether cognizant or not of the hand that pressed the button.

These are conclusions so absolute

lately certain that no other Government in the world would question them.

What are we going to do about it? Is our Government to treat the wanton and treacherous destruction of the ship, the immeasurable insult to our flag and the murder of 266 American sailors as a mere "incident" in a controversy about Cuba which it is arranging to settle by a diplomatic dicker of some sort?

What does Congress say? What do the people think?

### A Chilly Message.

The President's message accompanying the report of the Court of Inquiry is distinctly disappointing. It is little more than a wordy and weak paraphrase of the report, with a lame and impotent conclusion.

There is not in the entire document one word expressive of horror and indignation at the atrocious crime or of sorrow and sympathy for the 266 victims of the assassination and their families and friends. We have praised the President's calmness and moderation in dealing officially with this incident, but now that the time has come to speak, after the lapse of forty-five days, it certainly seems as though the instinctive feeling of his heart should have prompted an utterance more in harmony with the popular feeling.

The President's message is not to Congress alone, but to the American people, to Spain and to the whole civilized world; and in this aspect it is an inadequate, a disappointing and chilling document.

At the end of the message, after reciting the facts and conclusion pointing irresistibly to the destruction of the Maine by foul play, the President says that he has communicated the finding of the court to the Government of Spain, and adds: "I do not permit myself to doubt that the sense of justice of the Spanish nation will dictate a course of action suggested by honor and the friendly relations of the two governments."

This trust in Spanish "justice" and "honor" cannot have been drawn from the history of Spain or from any manifestations of the Spanish character in Cuba. But why has the President nothing to say as to the "course of action" required by our Government, and the reparation demanded by our sense of honor and justice? Why is the initiative left to Spain? Is this the way that England proceeded at Alexandria or Germany at Hayti? Is this what any first class European power would do in like circumstances?

There is a limit to patience. There is a time to supplement calmness with outspoken courage. There is a time to stop deliberating and proceed to action. This time has come in the Spanish-Cuban crisis. And if the President's forthcoming message on the general question shall not prove a great advance on the present one, it will be the duty of Congress to make clear the purpose of the American people to establish peace with freedom in Cuba.

### Libby Prison.

A number of Richmond citizens are said to be interested in a movement which has for its purpose the repurchase of the old Libby Prison and its transfer from Chicago, where it has stood since the World's Fair, to the old site. The famous war relic was bought by a syndicate of speculators, which also acquired John Brown's Fort at Harper's Ferry. The material of both structures was transferred to the Windy City and put up there in the original form as an attraction for Fair visitors. But the hopes of profit entertained by the promoters of the enterprise were not realized. People refused to regard as a curiosity a structure practically new, although it did contain the old brick and mortar. By demolition and re-erection amid incongruous surroundings the value of the edifice as a show-piece had been destroyed.

Efforts on the part of persons who concern themselves in the history of the abolition movement have since accomplished the restoration of John Brown's fort, though in another part of the town, at Harper's Ferry. Whatever importance attaches to Libby Prison can be preserved only by replacing the tobacco warehouse, which acquired such notoriety during the Civil War, upon the identical spot where it formerly stood. Away from the locality made famous by stirring events such objects as the prison possess no special significance. They require a distinctive local setting to give them prominence.

### An Abdicated Leader.

For forty-one days the country waited in stern self-repression for the official verdict upon the destruction of its battle ship and the extinction of 266 gallant lives. "Be patient," urged the spokesman of the Administration. "Suspend judgment. It is better to know than to think. Perhaps the Maine was blown up by accident. If it shall prove that she was wrecked by design the President can be depended upon to take such action as will satisfy the most exacting American spirit. Retribution will be meted out in full measure and running over. Only have faith."

The nation had faith, and waited in pent-up wrath through six weary, heart-breaking weeks—for this:

I have directed that the finding of the Court of Inquiry and the views of this Government thereon be communicated to the Government of Her Majesty the Queen Regent, and I do not permit myself to doubt that the sense of justice of the Spanish nation will dictate a course of action suggested by honor and the friendly relations of the two Governments.

It will be the duty of the Executive to advise the Congress of the result, and in the meantime deliberate consideration is invoked.

That is absolutely all the comment the President has to make upon an act of murderous treachery that stands alone in modern history. He has less to say about the destruction of an American battle ship and the murder of 266 American sailors than he would say about a proposition to fill the Potomac flats. He humbly holds out his hat to Spain and trusts that she will drop into it something satisfactory to us, or at least to herself.

And this is what we have been arming for so ostentatiously in the sight of an admiring world. It is for this that we have been scouring the military markets of Europe and painting our war ships greenish gray. This is the object for which Congress appropriated \$50,000,000, the most expensive dishwater in the history of literature.

No, there is something more. What of Cuba—free Cuba, whose sufferings have wrung the American heart and stirred even hardened politicians to emotion? Cuban independence was promised up to last Monday morning. What ever might be done about the Maine, we were told, the liberty for which the patriots had struggled for three years was assured. The mighty Republic of the North was about to stretch its protecting wing over them, and the shadow of Spanish tyranny was to disappear. But now Cuba Libre seems to be forgotten at the White House. The Administration has a plan, it is said, to feed the reconcentrados whom Spain has been starving, to secure an armistice under Spanish rule until October, and meanwhile to obtain by negotiations the "practical independence" of the island—a "just as good" imitation which will be as satisfactory as a substitute for real independence as a counterfeit bill is as a substitute for a genuine one.

Of this precious scheme the Cuban Junta speaks with a biting contempt that will make Americans who feel pride in their country hang their heads. "The United States," says the Cuban representatives, "may be willing to forgive the blowing up of the Maine and the assassination of its 266 officers and men. But our business is to fight, and we will keep at it."

For three years we have fought Spain as well as America. I mean we have fought America to get our arms and supplies landed.

We are in better condition now than we have ever been. We will have no armistice unless the United States forces us into it. Our consent has not been asked and it will never be given.

The action of the Junta kills in advance the alleged Presidential scheme for keeping the flag that represents wholesale murder still flying over Cuba. If the insurgents refuse to accept the terms proposed, as they do refuse, what can Mr. McKinley do? Will he spend the remainder of his \$50,000,000 defence fund in helping Blanco to suppress the patriots, or will he allow anarchy and rapine to continue in Cuba indefinitely? The American people will not permit either course. They demand the immediate settlement of the Cuban question, on the basis of the absolute independence of the island. They will accept nothing less, and the sooner Mr. McKinley recognizes that fact and accommodates himself to it the better chance his Administration will have of ending its term with some shred of reputation left. If the President entertains the suicidal plan attributed to him—and we say "it" not because we seriously doubt it, but in the hope that a regard for the

honor of the nation may yet lead him to better counsels—he is standing on the edge of a precipice.

### Mr. Phelps as an Authority.

Mr. E. J. Phelps has written a long letter for the New York Herald, expressing the opinion that it would be a crime to go to war for such a trivial cause as the murder of 400,000 Cubans and 266 American sailors. Therefore the New York Evening Post acclaims him as "an eminent Democrat" and a "master" of international law. A few years ago Mr. Phelps wrote a magazine article in which he urged us to go to war with England to prevent the slaughter of some thousands of seals. The Evening Post did not regard him as a master of international law at that time.

Without taking the radical ground that the lives of pacificos and sailors are as valuable as those of seals, let us examine some of the propositions laid down by the international lawyer from Vermont. Mr. Phelps announces the principle:

The idea that this country, or any other, is justified in undertaking a moral or political supervision over the affairs of its neighbors, and in correcting by armed invasion the faults of their institutions or the mistakes of their Administration, or administering charity to them by force, is absolutely inadmissible and infinitely mischievous.

It happens, however, that this "infinitely mischievous" idea is one that every power in Europe has followed repeatedly. Not to go back to the time when Europe united to impose upon France such institutions as it thought she ought to have, France herself invaded Spain in 1823 to suppress a liberal constitution, joined England and Russia in behalf of the Greek insurgents at Navarino in 1827, maintained a standing intervention at Rome through a long term of years to keep the Romans from throwing off the rule of the Church, and intervened in Mexico to overthrow a republic and set up a monarchy. Russia has intervened in behalf of insurgents in Turkey and against them in Hungary. But the classic example of intervention to promote an insurrection is that of France in favor of the American colonists in their struggle against Great Britain. Perhaps Mr. Phelps calls that a crime.

There is nothing more amazing than the pretentious ignorance of the wise. Here is a person who vaunts himself as an authority, and who yet is willing to sign such a statement about the Cuban reconcentrados as this:

Nor can it be maintained that any cruelty or outrage is visited upon them by the Spanish Government, or that their destitution results from any other cause than the poverty that the civil war has occasioned, as it generally does, and the inability of the Government to relieve it fully.

Did Mr. Phelps read Senator Proctor's explanation of the manner in which the reconcentrados were driven from their homes by Spanish troops, often with no opportunity to gather up their clothing or household utensils, and then, after the soldiers had destroyed their fields, were herded into towns and confined within a dead line, with absolutely no provision for their subsistence, but with the assurance that if they ventured beyond the line they would be shot? If he did not he was guilty of unpardonable presumption in attempting to instruct people better informed than himself. If he did, we fear it is necessary to say deliberately of him what the Psalmist said in his haste of all men.

Nothing could be more touching than the impressive allusions in the President's message to the manifestations of Spanish sympathy for the victims of the Maine. "Prompt assistance was rendered by the neighboring vessels, aid being especially given by the boats of the Spanish cruiser Alfonso XII." "The wounded were generously cared for by the authorities of Havana." "The hospitals were freely opened to them." And last but not least, the hospitality of the graveyard was extended to the victims of the wholesale murder.

Now that the report of the Board of Inquiry has been made public, the extraordinary precautions taken to guard its contents—the convoy of armed men, the night watches and all the rest of the mystery—appears childish. There is not an important fact given in the report that was not printed before, from special correspondents, a month ago.

### The Mine is the Main Thing.

The vitally significant part of the report of the Maine Court of Inquiry lies in these impressive words:

In the opinion of the court the Maine was destroyed by the explosion of a submarine mine, which caused the partial explosion of two or more of her forward magazines.

This is the unanimous judgment of a board of experts after an exhaustive study of all the evidence, human and physical. It is a conclusion which cannot be rationally questioned. It must be accepted by every fair mind as a statement of demonstrated fact.

The Maine was blown up by a submarine mine.

This is the one fact of importance. If she had been blown up by a torpedo, it might have been possible to believe that the crime was that of some sneaking miscreant acting upon his own malicious motion, and for whose crime nobody would have been responsible but himself.

But a mine explosion creates a different situation. Submarine mines are not for sale in the shops. No ordinary civilian could possibly construct one. Nobody could plant it in any well ordered harbor without the knowledge and consent of somebody in authority. And if it was planted by the authorities or with their consent all its controlling connections must have been under their jealous control. Its explosion would have been absolutely impossible without either the connivance or the criminal carelessness of the authorities or of some of their agents. As Senator Mason said in his speech:

The harbor is owned, controlled and patrolled by Spain. The explosives in that harbor are owned and controlled by Spain. If it was a torpedo, it was a Spanish torpedo; if it was a mine, it was a Spanish mine. No explosives have been on sale in Havana for over a year to private citizens. If it was gun cotton, it was Spanish gun cotton, and if it was dynamite, it was Spanish dynamite. The power to explode it was controlled by Spain, as much as they controlled the officers of their cannon. A government acts only through its agents and agents, it was owned, located and exploded by Spain, and Spain must answer.

These are the facts and the law. The Spanish authorities are answerable for the destruction of our ship and the massacre of 266 of our seamen. The American people earnestly desire that they shall be made to answer. The American people are very weary of paltering. They will not patiently submit to see this immeasurable insult, this unparalleled crime, put aside as a mere "incident" to be settled by diplomatic dicker.

In this connection it may be asked, where are those mines which were shipped to Weyler, Captain General of Cuba, in Sept., 1896?

Are they still ALL in the possession of the Spanish authorities at Havana? Can those Spanish authorities produce them ALL, and so clear themselves so far as that one cargo is concerned?

Mines, with their elaborate equipments, cannot be lost or misplaced. They must have been carefully guarded by the Spanish officials—certain definite officials assigned to that especial duty—ever since they were landed from the Ciudad Condal.

Where are they now? Has one of them disappeared?

The Sultan of Johore nearly lost his life through a gun accident while out on a shooting expedition. The incident caused some excitement in Johore, and also in Singapore, where the Sultan is very popular. It appears that the Sultan got his Winchester jammed, with an unused cartridge in it. He was trying to extract the cartridge when it exploded, blowing the brass butt of the shell into the Sultan's face. The metal cut through the left cheek, and the doctors considered that he would probably lose the sight of his eye. The shock to his system was very great, but the Sultan is a man of strong physique.

OF ALL the rivers that make up the lower Mississippi, the floods most dangerous to the country between Cairo and New Orleans come out of the Ohio River.

This river and its tributaries drain a big area. The upper Ohio itself, and all its tributaries, at this time of the year, catch and condense the heavily laden clouds blowing up from the Gulf, and they all get their water into the main channel pretty much at a time, while in the level country north of the Ohio every acre of ground seems to have been fixed not to hold a puddle of water anywhere, and the snows and rains of spring run off this region as they would from a high pitched tin roof. It is this that produces floods in spring and extreme low water in the Ohio in midsummer, and has made possible, in a single year, a difference of seventy feet in the water level at Cincinnati.

## OUR FOREIGN NEWS.

Translated and Selected from leading European papers for the SENTINEL.

### ENGLAND.

#### A GRANT TO THE WEST INDIES.

Standard—London, March 15.

The House of Commons decided by large majorities last night in favor of assisting the West Indies by substantial grants in aid, as was recommended by the Royal Commission. The particular vote agreed upon was for one hundred and twenty thousand pounds, to make good certain deficits in some of the smaller islands, and to provide for the construction of roads and for the settlement of the Creole population upon the land. \* \* \* Last night's debate showed that the two front benches have joined forces. Whatever be the fortunes of the sugar industry, an effort must be made to develop these colonies by works of public utility, by giving the Creoles access to the land, and by teaching them how to cultivate it. We need not discuss the particular cases of Dominica and St. Vincent. The purposes for which the vote was granted are not peculiar to those islands. The inhabitants are descendants of the negroes whom our forefathers brought from West Africa to work in the sugar plantations. They have a better title to help from us than natives whom we have conquered on their own ground. In other West Indian colonies there is also a large Asiatic population. For these we are bound to make provision, should the sugar estates in which they are indentured be abandoned. Their contract is with the planters through the Government, and for its performance the Imperial authorities are ultimately responsible. \* \* \*

In so far as general principle is involved in any part of these possessions, it lies with the Mother Country. For many years she has seen the sugar industry tottering to its fall; but she has let matters drift, her statesmen being too indifferent to come to Parliament for money to throw open the islands and the interior of Guiana to the Creole and the British capitalist. The era of neglect has passed. Last night's debate and division will convince Mr. Chamberlain that with the exception of the few survivors of the policy of cutting the colonies adrift, the House of Commons is in accord with the Government in their efforts to avert disaster from the West Indies and broaden the basis of commercial prosperity.

Daily Chronicle—London, March 15.

We are brewing for ourselves fresh difficulties, simply because West India planters, owing to their slowness in the introduction of modern methods of treating the cane, have not made sugar growing pay, and have equally failed in "fruit, cocoa and coffee." Other colonies make "fruit, cocoa and coffee" pay, but because the West India islands do not, the home taxpayer, who only wants his sugar, "fruit, cocoa and coffee" at the lowest prices he can get them, is to subsidize particular colonies to produce them at the expense of others. Lord Salisbury has said that we cannot give up free trade, but Mr. Chamberlain does not sit at the feet of Lord Salisbury. He has rather become an ally of Mr. H. Chaplin. \* \* \* We are astonished that any member of the front opposition bench could be found to advocate what Mr. Courtney rightly called this "dole," even on the specious plea of "coming to the assistance of these colonies." Our old principle, as he said, was to make each colony pay its way, and the West India islands have paid their way but for gross extravagance in expenditure and want of enterprise in trading. Now we are embarking on a policy of subsidies, the direct consequence of which, let the people of the United Kingdom clearly understand, is protection first in principle and not long after in practice. And that, of course, means dearer food and dearer clothing for the people of England, Scotland and Ireland, many of whom are in a far worse condition than even the negroes of the West India islands.

ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND TUNIS.

#### Financial News.

No excuse is needed for the length of Sir H. Johnston's extremely interesting report on the Regency of Tunis during the French Protectorate; indeed, the only superfluous matter is the apology which our Consul General thinks it right to make for what he terms his prolixity. Having known Tunis in 1880—before the institution of France's Protectorate—Sir H. Johnston is in a unique position to testify to the immense improvement which has taken place. Not only are life and property now as safe as in France, but from utter bankruptcy the Regency has been restored to solvency. There are good roads, an excellent water supply, through railroad communications between Tunis and Algeria, and at the ports of Sfax, Suse, and Tunis harbors have been constructed that enable ships of almost any size to berth alongside the quays. From an approximate value of £377,121 in 1880, the commerce of Tunis has risen to £3,325,083 in 1896, and British trade, which, in spite of the advantages of the 1856 Convention, and the predominance of France, which England held in the Regency, only averaged about £300,000 per annum before the French Protectorate was established, now amounts to nearly £700,000.

As might be expected, great attention has been paid to the construction of public works in the towns, and the French have occupied themselves successfully with improving the breed of domestic animals, with the development of the old marble quarries, and the manufacture of carpets and native tissues. Tunis exports considerable quantities of wheat, barley, and oats, the barley, which is highly valued for malting purposes, coming chiefly to this country; while her products include all kinds of fruit, more particularly olives, dates, and oranges, many of the so-called Maltese blood oranges coming from Tunis, and Eastern Algeria. In short, if Sir H. Johnston had confined himself to an enumeration of the results of French activity in a fertile country he would have drawn as glowing a picture of beneficent European influence guiding a backward country to civilization as can be seen in our own annals of administration in India, Egypt, and Zanzibar. But he cannot avoid pointing out that the most recent development of French policy

Lord George Bentinck—were both in love with the same woman, but while the younger's suit received the approval of his father, the latter's eldest son, but very gross terms to the skin disease from which he suffered. The climax to the quarrel between the brothers was reached on September 21, 1848, when Lord George was found dead near Welbeck Abbey, it was stated from a spasm of the heart. Whether this was the true cause of his decease can now, of course, never be known; but it is quite certain that from that keener remorse and the most abject fear. Nearly always in a state of terror, and taking various courses for his protection, and adopting the name of Thomas Charles Druce, transferred to himself, as Druce, immense property from himself as Duke of Portland. You know quite well the manner in which he undermined Welbeck Abbey with subterranean apartments; he did precisely the same thing with the Baker Street Bazaar, his desire in each case being that he might have always ready a place of refuge. But realizing the risk of exposure to which he was subjecting himself by his double existence, he determined to end his life as Druce, and for that purpose caused a coffin to be buried with his supposed remains. I had long had my suspicions, and when, on my husband's death, a man named Vassar came to me and mentioned that he had been engaged in removing some lead from that coffin about the time of the supposed burial, they were converted into certainty.

If any further proof were needed that nobody was interested, it is supplied by the fact that it was subsequently discovered on the burial of my husband's mother, that the coffin supposed to contain his father's remains had entirely collapsed, for the simple reason that the weight of the coffin containing my husband's body had caused it to do so, through there being nothing inside to sustain it. Even after this, however, the fifth duke's fears were not quieted, and at last he determined to assume madness, in order that, should he be ever accused of any crime, he might have the plea of insanity to fall back upon. Taking the name of Harmer, and conducting himself in the most extravagant manner, he caused himself to be placed under the care of Dr. Forbes Winslow, and succeeded in entirely convincing that gentleman of his madness, but after about a year of incarceration he was then permitted to leave. As to why my husband's father and mother did not marry for so long it is impossible to say accurately; but probably the desire to conceal the facts surrounding the lady's birth had a great deal to do with it; the circumstances in her case being also of an extraordinary character. The fifth Earl of Berkeley married his wife—a Miss Cole—in 1735; and then, many years later, had to go through the same ceremony again; for the House of Lords, in 1811, declared the first union illegal, my husband's mother being born before that date.

Myself was a Miss Butler, and my father being agent for Lord Pembroke, the latter acted for a time as my guardian. It was through going to the same school as my husband's sister that I first met him. \* \* \* I have been offered £60,000 for my claim, but have refused it. Every obstacle has been put in my way, and the only other day, at Highgate Police Court, two men, perfect strangers to me, attempted to give me in charge; the inspector, however, declined to listen to them. But I am absolutely confident of success, and now the case has at last come before the public, have no doubt as to its ultimate result.

ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND TUNIS.

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foreshadows a less satisfactory prospect which may annul for the trade of other countries the benefits that have hitherto accrued from the French occupation.

While admitting the full value to civilization of the results of the French Protectorate over Tunis with the simplicity, smoothness, and relative cheapness of the "intelligent despotism" which directs its affairs, he says:—"We may cease to feel any gratitude to that nation from the day when she seeks to repay herself by instituting a differential treatment for her own trade. Had it been otherwise—had France continued to behave in Tunis as England behaves in India and in British Africa, other European nations might have welcomed the further extension of French rule over adjoining countries in North Africa. As it is, while admitting the strength of French claims to do as they please with the Regency of Tunis, we must acquire an added interest in the maintenance of the status quo in Tripoli and in Morocco."

As Sir H. Johnston shows in his exhaustive summary, we had an absolute ascendancy in Tunis in the early seventies. The only railway was a British company, the gas and water company was British, likewise the only bank. But we turned away in listlessness; sold the railway to the Italians, the gas company to the French, and wound up the London Bank of France. How far our trade followed the political attitude of our Government we cannot say; but since the existing trade that we do with Morocco is half as large again as that with Tunis, it is essential that we do not allow ourselves to be crowded out again by benevolent foreign protectors whose main object is to increase their own commerce at the expense of ours.

### TALES OF THE JUNGLE.

In the current Cornhill Mr. A. S. Ghosh tells some tall tales of tigers. The first of his stories relates how a tiger fished a hunter out of a river, carried him to his lair, buried him under the sand and then went off to fetch the tigress and her cubs. The tiger's lair was no sooner turned than the man jumped up, climbed a tree, where he remained until the morning, and then drove the tiger and his family into the depths of the jungle.

Another of Mr. Ghosh's stories is almost a reproduction of Baron Munchausen's. In this case a villager was bathing when he was stalked simultaneously by a tiger on the shore and an alligator in the water. They both rushed for him at the same moment, with the result that the alligator caught the tiger's toe, pulled him under water and devoured him.

The last story tells how a tigress seized a captain in the jungle by the breast pocket of his coat, and shook him as a cat shakes a mouse. She suddenly dropped him, and when the captain recovered his senses he saw his late captor sinking off with her tail between her legs, the picture of distress, almost sneezing her head off. In shaking his snuffbox in his waistcoat pocket sprang open and saved his life.

### RUSSIAN JUDGMENT.

"While I was at Moscow," writes a traveler, "a volume was published in favor of the liberty of the people. In this book the iniquitous conduct of the public functionaries, and even of the sovereign, was censured severely. The book created great indignation, and the offender was at once taken into custody. After being tried in a summary way, he was condemned to eat his own words. A scaffold was erected in a public square, the imperial provost, the magistrate and the physicians of the Czar attending, the book was separated from the binding, and the margin cut off. The author was then served, leaf by leaf, by the provost, and was obliged to swallow this unpalatable stuff on pain of the knout, more feared in Russia than death. As soon as the medical gentlemen were of the opinion that he had eaten as much as he could with safety, the transgressor was returned to prison. This punishment was renewed the following days until, after several hearty meals, every leaf of the book was actually swallowed."

### Notes of Interest.

Now that the Duke of Veragua has publicly expressed his opinion that President McKinley is "an ignorant suttler," it was inevitable that some American, lacking that fine sense of chivalry honor which characterizes the Spanish, should recall that the Duke of Veragua is in comfortable worldly circumstances, and not a pauper, only because of the American dollars which were given him in charity. The full story was never published, but it seems timely now. Readers will recall perhaps that because he was a descendant of the family of Columbus the Duke was guest here by our Government as a guest to the Chicago Exposition. As he and his extensive suite lived in the best style at the public expense the fact of his poverty might not have become known had the press not published the subscription paper passed around for his benefit. Now here is the point: The charity by which he profited was not extended unsolicited—the Spanish Duke asked for it.

The King of Siam has, it is stated, reconsidered his resolve to send his second son to Russia to receive a military education. The Russian authorities, if report may be believed, were extremely anxious to welcome the young Prince, and they gave the King the most explicit assurance of their desire that his training should be of a practical character. So satisfied was the King with these protestations that arrangements had been made for the young Prince to bid farewell to his English friends and associates but these arrangements are stated to have been suddenly cancelled. What subtle influences have induced the King to change his mind cannot be guessed; but at least it is certain that for a while the Prince will remain in England.